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GORDONIA ALATAMAHA

CHELTENHAM NURSERIES

ASHBOURNE AND OAKLANE ROADS
CHELTENHAM, PA.

In the autumn of 1765 the botanist John Bartram stood on the banks of the Alatomaha River in Georgia; he was waiting for a boat to ferry him to an Indian trading post on the far shore. Ever alert for new specimens his attention was suddenly fixed by a small spreading tree with foliage of dark shining green. This was the *Gordonia alatomaha*, or Franklin Tree, from which are descended all plants now in existence. The last wild specimen was seen in 1790.

His son William wrote of it:

"We never saw it grow in any other place, nor have I since seen it growing wild in all my travels. . . . It is a flowering tree of first order for beauty and fragrance of blossom; the tree grows fifteen or twenty feet high, branching alternately; . . . the flowers are very large, expand themselves perfectly, are of a snow-white colour, and ornamented with a crown or tassal of gold-coloured refulgent staminae in their centre . . ."

In the vicinity of Philadelphia the *Gordonia* blooms from late July until the first frosts, when its leaves turn a warm red-orange; it is thus a strikingly ornamental tree at any season. The Cheltenham Nurseries offer to the discriminating gardening public healthy plants suitable for spring planting.

Gordonia alatomaha grows easily under proper conditions. It requires sun and a loose well-drained soil. It should be planted in the spring. Although its roots grow close to the surface they demand cool soil; this can best be affected by placing a mulch of peat moss or leafmold over the surface of the soil.

The plants are rapid growers and respond well to any acid fertilizer. This, however, should not be applied late in the season as the fall growth may winterkill.

During the first two growing seasons the young plants should be staked and kept well-watered. As the bark is thin, they should, where necessary, be protected by wire from rabbits. Except to remove crossing branches and to train to a desired shape, Gordonia alatomaha does not require pruning.

12"-15" Gordonia	\$2.50
18" Gordonia	\$3.50
25" Gordonia	\$5.00
3' Gordonia	\$8.00
6' Gordonia	\$12.00
8' Gordonia	\$15.00

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HERBS

"They giveth so much and taketh so little." There is no garden so satisfying as to beauty, historical interest, and usefulness as the quaint herb garden. We suggest the following perennial herbs:

Rosmarinus officinalis—*rosemary*. When the Virgin Mary washed her sky-blue cloak she spread it over a rosemary bush to dry. The white flowers were turned the heavenly blue of her cloak, and so they are today. In temperate climates this shrub stands about 18" high. Distinctive fragrance of nutmeg, heliotrope and pineneedles. Light dry soil. Sun.

Mentha piperita—*peppermint*. Used mainly for flavoring. A spreading plant 2' to 3' high with rose-lavender spikes of flower. Moist fertile soil. \$.20.

——*pulegium*—*pennyroyal*, *Lurk-in-the-Ditch*. An aromatic effective creeper. Moist fertile soil. \$.20.

Salvia officinalis—*sage*. Sage is said to prosper only where the wife rules. Certain it is that no good housewife omits this pungent herb from her stuffings and sauces. Grey-green foliage. About 2' high. Its flowers are whorls of lavender-blue blossoms. Ordinary soil. Sun.

Monarda didyma—*bee balm*. This was once used as a liniment and counter-irritant in nausea. A handsome plant standing 2' to 3' high; large raggedy scarlet flowers and fragrant leaves. Ordinary soil. Sun. \$.20.

Thymus vulgaris—*common thyme*. Traditionally used in sauces and dressings. A small graceful subshrub with grayish evergreen leaves. Its buds are rosy-pink but when open have a tinge of lavender. Ordinary soil. Sun. \$.20.

——*citriodorus* — *lemon-scented thyme*. Grows well on rocks; its trailing stems are covered with dark glossy leaves and purple flowers. Ordinary soil. Sun.

Lavendula vera—*lavender*. From the latin "lavare"—"to wash"—comes the name of this herb used to scent the Roman baths. About 30" high with spreading silver stems which, when weighted with bloom, resemble a "many sprayed silver fountain." Poor soil. Sun.

——*vera* Munstead—*dwarf*. About 12" tall. A good pot plant. Club-shaped clusters of flowers. Fragrant. Poor soil. Sun.

——*Stoechas*—a tall shrub growing up to 3'. Fragrant foliage and blooms. Poor soil. Sun.

Allium Schoenophrasum—*chives*. Its leaves chopped are used in salads and sauces. A small bush of spreading tubular leaves with a decided smell of onion. Rich light soil. Sun. \$.20.

Lippia citriodora—*lemon verbena*. One of our favorites. Tender perennial subshrub with branching foliage. Gives off delightful lemon scent. Moist fertile soil.

Primula veris—*cowslip*. The leaves of this herb are used in salads and make a tasty wine. A small, sweet-smelling plant whose warm orange and yellow flowers resemble a bunch of keys. Rich moist soil. Half-shade.

Origanum vulgare—*pot marjoram*. Strewn on the floors as a disinfectant it filled medieval churches with its fragrance of heliotrope and spice. White or pink flowers. Ordinary soil. Sun.

Anthemis nobilis—*camomile*. Once thought a panacea for all complexion woes, its extract stood on the dressing table of every grande dame. Spreads over the ground in leafy mosslike mats. Dry soil. Sun.

Artemisia Dracunculus—*tarragon*. Beloved of "chefs" and a constituent of fine vinegar. A small plant about 2' high whose leafy branches are so twisted they look like long wind-blown hair. Rich light soil. Sheltered.

Artemisia Abrotanum — *southernwood*. This herb in the Middle Ages was credited with a variety of powers: it was an effective love potion, it cured talking in the sleep, it made hair grow. A feathery grey-green plant smelling of daisies mixed with spice. Poor soil. Sun.

All plants \$.25 each. \$2.50 per dozen, unless otherwise marked.

Visit Our Booth at the
PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW
March 12-17

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